CENTRIFUGAL CLUTCH WITH IMPROVED WEAR LIFE AND DISENGAGEMENT CHARACTERISTICS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A centrifugal clutch assembly is provided that includes a cover module having a pressure plate for applying a clamping force against a friction plate, a moveable plate adapted to rotate with the cover module, but axially displaceable with respect thereto to apply an axial force on the pressure plate through a preloaded plate spring, a fixed plate secured for rotation with the cover module, and a plurality of weights positioned between the moveable plate and the fixed plate that are adapted to move outward under the effects of centrifugal force to cause axial movement in the movable plate and a clamping force on the friction plate. The cover module also includes at least one return spring configured to apply a return force on the weights through the moveable plate, the return force being generally parallel to the axis of rotation of the cover module and independent of weight position.

R0221648.DOC